

What is claimed is:

1. A fuel cell comprising:

a cell housing;

first and second electrodes mounted in said cell housing;

an electrolyte disposed in said cell housing; and,

an internal fuel store disposed within said cell housing.

2. The fuel cell of claim 1, said first electrode being an anode and encompassing said fuel store.

3. The fuel cell of claim 2, wherein said fuel store is provided in a gas distribution structure in said anode.

4. The fuel cell of claim 3, wherein said fuel store includes a storage metal.

5. The fuel cell of claim 4, wherein said storage metal is an alloy of storage metals.

6. The fuel cell of claim 4, wherein said storage metal is applied to at least a part of said gas distribution structure of said anode as a coating.

7. The fuel cell of claim 6, wherein said coating of said storage metal is formed to have a thickness of less than 500 nm for an average channel height in said distribution structure of less than 500 μm .

8. The fuel cell of claim 6, wherein said coating of said

storage metal has a thickness of approximately 100 nm for an average channel height in said gas distribution structure of 200 μm .

9. The fuel cell of claim 2, wherein said electrodes are porous electrodes; and, said internal fuel store encompasses a coating of the porous electrodes.

10. The fuel cell of claim 2, wherein said fuel store encompasses carbon nano-structures.

11. The fuel cell of claim 10, wherein said carbon nano-structures are provided in the gas distribution structure of said anode.

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